

Ask

SHIP



LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

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Q: I've just discovered that I am paying a higher monthly premium for my Medicare Part B than my neighbor. We used to pay the same amount. I am also paying more for my Part D drug coverage than I did last year. What's changed?

A: The standard Medicare Part B monthly premium for 2011 has increased \$4.90 since 2010 from \$110.50 to \$115.40. Most Medicare beneficiaries, however, will continue to pay the same \$96.40 premium they have been since 2008.

The increase in the Part B premium for 2011 will be paid by only a small percentage of Part B enrollees. About 27 percent of beneficiaries are not protected by the "hold-harmless provision" and will be subject to the income-related additional premium. These include:

- new enrollees this year
- those who do not have their Part B premiums withheld from Social Security benefit payments

Your higher monthly costs can also be due to your annual income.

The Part B premium a beneficiary pays each month is

now based on his or her annual income. In addition to the standard 25 percent premium a beneficiary pays, affected beneficiaries must also pay an additional income-

related monthly adjusted amount.

2011 Part B monthly premium rates are shown in the chart below.

Beneficiaries who file an individual tax return with income:	Beneficiaries who file a joint tax return with income:	Part B income-related monthly adjustment	Total monthly Part B premium
Less than or equal to \$85,000	Less than or equal to \$170,000	\$0.00	\$115.40
Greater than \$85,000 and less than or equal to \$107,000	Greater than \$170,000 and less than or equal to \$214,000	\$46.10	\$161.50
Greater than \$107,000 and less than or equal to \$160,000	Greater than \$214,000 and less than or equal to \$320,000	\$115.30	\$230.70
Greater than \$160,000 and less than or equal to \$214,000	Greater than \$320,000 and less than or equal to \$428,000	\$184.50	\$299.90
Greater than \$214,000	Greater than \$428,000	\$253.70	\$369.10

Married beneficiaries who file a separate tax return from their spouse	Part B income-related monthly adjustment	Total monthly Part B premium
Less than or equal to \$85,000	\$0.00	\$115.40
Greater than \$85,000 and less than or equal to \$129,000	\$184.50	\$299.90
Greater than \$129,000	\$253.70	\$369.10

SHIP is a free, unbiased counseling program provided by the Indiana State Department of Insurance. To schedule an appointment with SHIP, call 1-800-452-4800, TTY 1-866-846-0139 or visit www.Medicare.IN.gov to find your local site.

Medicare beneficiaries who enroll in Part D prescription drug plans pay premiums that vary from plan to plan. Beginning in 2011, the Affordable Care Act requires Part D enrollees whose incomes exceed the same thresholds that apply to higher

income Part B enrollees to pay a monthly adjustment amount in addition to their Part D premium.

The 2011 Part D income-related monthly adjustment amounts are shown in the chart below.

Beneficiaries who file an individual tax return with income:	Beneficiaries who file a joint tax return with income:	Income-related monthly adjustment
Less than or equal to \$85,000	Less than or equal to \$170,000	\$0.00
Greater than \$85,000 and less than or equal to \$107,000	Greater than \$170,000 and less than or equal to \$214,000	\$12.00
Greater than \$107,000 and less than or equal to \$160,000	Greater than \$214,000 and less than or equal to \$320,000	\$31.10
Greater than \$160,000 and less than or equal to \$214,000	Greater than \$320,000 and less than or equal to \$428,000	\$50.10
Greater than \$214,000	Greater than \$428,000	\$69.10

Beneficiaries who are married and lived with their spouse at any time during the year, but file a separate tax return from their spouse:	Income-related monthly adjustment
Less than or equal to \$85,000	\$0.00
Greater than \$85,000 and less than or equal to \$129,000	\$50.10
Greater than \$129,000	\$69.10

If you would like further assistance regarding your Medicare premiums, supplement plans, or other insurance questions, call SHIP for help at 1-800-452-4800, TTY 1-866-846-0139 or online at www.medicare.in.gov.